

32. The system as defined in claim 31 wherein the open architecture Operating System is selected from the group of Operating Systems comprised of FreeBSD and Linux.

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33. The system as defined in claim 32 wherein the at least two bus connectors further comprise peripheral component interconnect (PCI) bus connectors.

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34. The system as defined in claim 33 wherein the switch/router board is further comprised of:

a PCI to PCI bus bridge;

a PCI to PCMCIA bus bridge;

at least one random access memory module; and

15 a media switch for performing switch and router function.

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35. The system as defined in claim 34 wherein the plurality of network ports further comprises:

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at least two gigabit ethernet ports;

at least twelve 10/100 ethernet ports; and

at least two PCMCIA type 2 expansion ports.

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36. The system as defined in claim 35 wherein the plurality of network ports further comprises at least one universal serial bus (USB) port.

5 37. The system as defined in claim 36 wherein the at least two PCI bus connectors are coupled to network card performing network functions, wherein the network functions are selected from the group of network functions comprising routers, switches, load balancers, bridges, 10 firewalls, packet shapers, and servers.

15 38. The system as defined in claim 37 wherein the SBC further comprises a microprocessor that is selected from the group of microprocessors comprised of general purpose microprocessors and special purpose microprocessors.

20 39. The system as defined in claim 38 wherein the configuration software further comprises a software utility that enables drag-and-drop configuration of network components, to thereby simplify configuration of network components within the Open IP Services Platform.

40. The system as defined in claim 39 wherein the configuration software utilizes icons that are representative of the network components, wherein the icons are ActiveX modules that define the functions that are performed by the network components.

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41. The system as defined in claim 40 wherein the switch/router board is a level 4 network device that is capable of communicating with other Open IP Services Platforms at wire speed.

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42. The system as defined in claim 41 wherein the system further comprises a solid state refrigeration unit, where the refrigeration unit is disposed directly on a case of a hard drive, thereby directing cooling efforts directly on the most temperature sensitive device within the Open IP Services Platform.

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43. A method for providing video-on-demand by creating a local network topology that decreases congestion on trunk lines between the local network structure and a global information network, and which stores videos on Open IP